

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-14 IO-14 SAB-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 FEA-02 AID-20

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-03

LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 EUR-25 ACDA-19 SCI-06 STR-08

DRC-01 /251 W

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R 261730Z SEP 74

FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5594

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SAO PAULO 2132

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, PFOR, BR, US, XF, UR

SUBJECT: JEWISH COMMUNITY REACTS TO SAQQAF VISIT

REF: BRASILIA 7261

1. FURTHER INSIGHT INTO THE BACKGROUND AND RESULTS OF THE SEPTEMBER 19 MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT GEISEL'S CHIEF OF CIVIL HOUSEHOLD GENERAL GOLBERY, AND LEADERS OF THE ORGANIZED BRAZILIAN/JEWISH COMMUNITY HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO US BY AN AUTHORITATIVE SPOKESMAN FOR THE FEDERACAO ISRAELITA DO ESTADO DE SAO PAULO WHO PERSONALLY ATTENDED THE MEETING. AS EXPLAINED BY THIS SOURCE, JEWISH COMMUNITY LEADERS REQUESTED THE MEETING IN ORDER TO EXPRESS THEIR CONCERN OVER WHAT THEY REGARD AS TWO INTERCONNECTED PROBLEMS: (A) EVIDENT SHIFTS IN GOB FOREIGN POLICY VIS-A-VIS THE ISRAEL-ARAB QUESTION AND (B) THE RECENT CIRCULATION IN BRAZIL OF AN INCREASED AMOUNT OF ANTI-SEMITIC LITERATURE.

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2. THE FEDERATION SOURCE TOLD US THAT JEWISH LEADERS HAVE OBSERVED IN RECENT MONTHS AN INCREASED OUTCROPPING OF ANTI-SEMITIC STATEMENTS APPEARING PARTICULARLY IN CERTAIN BRAZILIAN COMMERCIAL JOURNALS AND HAVE ALSO NOTED THAT A NEW REPRINT OF THE SCURRILOUS PROTOCOL OF THE ELDERS OF ZION HAS BEEN PUBLISHED BY A PHANTOM PRINTING HOUSE. LEFT UNSTATED, BUT CLEARLY IMPLIED BY OUR SOURCE, IS THE CONCERN IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY THAT THE PUBLICATION OF ANTI-SEMITIC MATERIALS MAY NOT ONLY HAVE BEEN CONDONED BUT ALSO MAY HAVE BEEN INSPIRED BY OFFICIAL QUARTERS. IN THEIR MEETING WITH GENERAL GOLBERY THE NATIONAL CONFEDERATION (CIB) AND STATE FEDERATION LEADERS INQUIRED WHETHER THE GOB WAS COGNIZANT OF THIS DEVELOPMENT AND WHAT THE GOV WAS PREPARED TO DO ABOUT IT. GENERAL GOLBERY RESPONDED THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN AWARE OF THE PROBLEM AND THAT THE SNI HAD NOT ASSIGNED ANY RESOURCES TO THIS AREA BECAUSE HERETOFORE THERE DID NOT APPEAR TO BE ANY DANGER OF ORGANIZED ANTI-SEMITISM IN BRAZIL. HOWEVER, HE ASSURED THE CIB LEADERS THAT THE GOB WOULD NOT TOLERATE AN ORGANIZED CAMPAIGN OF THIS NATURE IN THE COUNTRY. THE FEDERATION SOURCE STATED THAT JEWISH COMMUNITY LEADERS WERE LARGELY SATISFIED WITH THESE ASSURANCES AND THAT THEY HAD REASON TO BELIEVE IN THE SINCERITY OF GENERAL GOLBERY AND PRESIDENT GEISEL AS WELL.

3. IN COMMENTING ON THE PORTION OF THE MEETING THAT DEALT WITH GOB FOREIGN POLICY ASPECTS, THE FEDERATION SOURCE STATED THAT THE CIB REPRESENTATIVES LED INTO THE SUBJECT GINGERLY BY ALLUDING TO THE RECENT VISIT OF "A MINISTER OF ANOTHER STATE" (REFERRING OF COURSE TO SAUDI ARABIAN MINISTER OF STATE AL-SAQQAF). GOLBERY, EVIDENTLY IN GOOD FORM, RESPONDED BY ASKING WHAT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY HAD AGAINST THE VISIT OF JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER TANAKA. ASKED TO EXPLAIN THE SHIFT FROM A POSITION OF "EQUAL DISTANCE" BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE ARAB STATES TO THE NEW POLICY OF "RESPONSIBLE PRAGMATISM", GOLBERY REPORTEDLY RESPONDED THAT THESE WERE WORDS WITHOUT SUBSTANTIVE MEANING AND THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO CHANGE IN FOREIGN POLICY VIS-A-VIS ISRAEL, WHOSE CAUSE THE GOB STILL LOOKED UPON WITH SYMPATHY. (HE FURTHER STATED THAT ITAMARATY HAD NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED RESOLUTION 242 IN RECENT COMMUNIQUE BECAUSE BOTH ISRAEL AND THE ARAB STATES WERE OPPOSED TO IT). GOLBERY WENT ON TO DESCRIBE BRAZIL'S NEED FOR OIL IN DESPERATED AND DRAMATIC TERMS. HE INTIMATED THAT THE SUCCESS

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OF THE REVOLUTION AND THE VERY SURVIVAL OF THE REGIME DEPENDED ON FOREIGN OIL. HE SAID THAT BRAZIL HAD BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING

COMMITMENTS FROM NEIGHBORING LATIN AMERICAN OIL PRODUCERS SUCH AS ARGENTINA, ECAUDOR AND VENEZUELA AND THEREFORE WAS COMPELLED TO TURN TO ARAB SUPPLIERS AS THE ONLY SOLUTION.

4. THE FEDERATION SOURCE REMARKED THAT WHILE LISTENING TO

GENERAL GOLBERY'S EXPOSITION ON THE OIL CRISIS HE COULD NOT RESIST THE THOUGHT THAT PRESIDENT NIXON HAD NOT DONE BRAZIL ANY FAVOR WHEN HE HAD DRAMATIZED BRAZIL'S GROWING INFLUENCE IN LATIN AMERICA IN A WELL PUBLICIZED STATEMENT HE MADE DURING PRESIDENT MEDICI'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES IN 1971. IN OUR SOURCE'S VIEW THIS STATEMENT HAD ONLY SERVED TO INCREASE THE RESISTANCE OF BRAZIL'S LATIN AMERICAN NEIGHBORS TO BRAZILIAN GROWTH AND POSSIBLY MAY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE SITUATION, AS DESCRIBED BY GOLBERY, WHEREBY VENEZUELA AND EQUADOR REPORTEDLY HAD REFUSED TO SUPPLY BRAZIL WITH SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES OF PETROLEUM. CONTINUING, OUR SOURCE SAID THAT HE WAS DEEPLY STRUCK BY THE VERY DIFFERENT APPROACHES BEING ADOPTED RESPECTIVELY BY THE U.S. AND GOB IN THE FACE OF ARAB OIL BLACKMAIL AS EXEMPLIFIED BY THE DIFFERENT ADDRESSES GIVEN TO THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY BY SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER ON THE ONE HAND AND BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AZEREDO DA SILVEIRA ON THE OTHER. OUR SOURCE STATED THAT HE, AS WAS TRUE OF BRAZILIANS IN GENERAL, HAD BEEN CONDITIONED TO BRAZIL'S FOLLOWING THE U.S. LEAD IN WORLD FORUMS. BRAZIL'S APPARENT DEPARTURE FROM THE U.S. POSITION ON MIDDLE EAST ISSUES LEFT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CONFUSED AND APPREHENSIVE. BY IMPLICATION HIS CONCERN IN THIS RESPECT COVERED NOT ONLY BRAZIL'S FOREIGN POLICY BUT ALSO THE TRADITIONALLY TOLERANT BRAZILIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD DOMESTIC MINORITIES. HIS CONCERN WAS ALSO GREATER, HE SAID, BECAUSE HE RECOGNIZED THAT REVOLUTIONARY REGIMES SUCH AS THE PRESENT BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT ARE INHERENTLY MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO RADICAL SWINGS IN POLICY THAT ARE CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACIES. HOWEVER, OUR SOURCE TOOK SOME COMFORT FROM THE SECRETARY'S ADDRESS TO THE UNGA AND SPECULATED HOPEFULLY THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS TO REMOVE OR WATER DOWN THE JACKSON AMENDMENT MAY HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATED WITH THE USSR IN EXCHANGE FOR SOVIET ASSURANCES THAT THEY WOULD NOT INTERFERE IN THE APPARENTLY TOUGHENING U.S. POSITION ON ARAB OIL.

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STR-08 /251 W

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R 261730Z SEP 74

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INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SAO PAULO 2132

5. OUR SOURCE STATED THAT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY HAD DECIDED NOT TO PUBLICLY CHALLENGE THE GOB FOREIGN POLICY SHIFT VIS-A-VIS ISRAEL OR TO PROTEST WHAT THEY REGARD AS PROVOCATIVE STATEMENTS MADE BY AL-SAQQAF DURING HIS VISIT. THE SOURCE DESCRIBED BRAZILIANS AS A CAREFREE PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT DEEP POLITICAL THINKERS AND WHO GENERALLY DO NOT REACT TO PERCEIVED POLITICAL WRONGS WITH PUBLIC MANIFESTATIONS OF PROTEST. PAID ADVERTISEMENTS PLACED BY THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN THE PRESS COULD PROVE TO BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. GENERAL GOLBERY HAD ALSO MADE THIS POINT DURING THE SEPTEMBER 19 MEETING. IT WAS MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE WHEN THE MEDIA TOOK IT UPON ITSELF TO COMMENT, AND OUR SOURCE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT EDITORIAL CRITICISM OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF AL-SAQQAF'S VISIT AND GOB POLICY HAVE APPEARED IN THE O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO AS WELL AS IN THE COLUMN OF POLITICAL COMMENTATOR CASTELLO BRANCO IN THE JORNAL DO BRASIL. ALSO VEJA'S WRITE UP OF THE AL-SAQQAF VISIT WAS CLEARLY NEGATIVE.

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6. ASKED TO GIVE HIS VIEW OF THE STATUS AND INFLUENCE OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN BRAZIL, OUR SOURCE STATED THAT JEWS WERE RESPECTED AND INFLUENTIAL FAR BEYOND THEIR SMALL NUMBERS (ABOUT 150,000) BECAUSE OF THE VERY HIGH PROPORTION OF SUCCESSFUL, WELL-EDUCATED JEWISH PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE, INCLUDING SOME IN IMPORTANT GOB POSITIONS. WHEN GEISEL ASSUMED THE PRESIDENCY THERE HAD EXISTED SOME APPREHENSION IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY BECAUSE OF GEISEL'S GERMAN ANCESTRY AND BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN HEAD OF THE STATE-OWNED PETROLEUM MONOPOLY PETROBRAS,

WHICH OUR SOURCE DESCRIBED AS A "SUPERNATURALIST ENTERPRISE".  
HOWEVER, THE JEWISH COMMUNITY HAS BEEN RELIVED TO NOTE  
THAT GEISEL IS A VERY SERIOUS PRESIDENT AND THAT HE ENJOYS A  
PARTICULARLY WARM RELATIONSHIP WITH JEWISH MEMBERS  
OF HIS GOVERNMENT, FROM WHICH THEY DEDUCE THAT GEISEL  
HARBORS NO ANTIPATHY TOWARD JEWS.

7. WE ASKED OUR SOURCE IF HE HAD ANY EVIDENCE OF ARAB  
TERROIST ACTIVITIES IN BRAZIL OR WHETHER ARAB INTERESTS WERE  
FINANCING THE ANTI-SEMITIC PUBLICATIONS HE REFERRED TO EARLIER.  
HE ANSWERED THAT THERE WAS GOOD INDIRECT EVIDENCE THAT ONE  
OF THE PUBLISHING HOUSES THAT HAD CIRCULATED SUCH MATERIALS HAD  
BEEN A FOREIGN AND NOT DOMESTIC BRAZILIAN OPERATION. HE  
FURTHER STATED THAT PALESTINIAN REFUGEE COMMUNITIES IN  
CURITIBA (PARANA) AND MATO GROSSO WERE "ACTIVE". WHILE  
JEWISH LEADERS HAVE RECEIVED THREATS FROM TIME TO TIME,  
THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGN THAT THESE COMMUNITIES ARE ACTIVELY  
ENGAGED IN ACTS OF VIOLENCE, HOWEVER. THE JEWISH COMMUNITY  
DID HAVE EVIDENCE, NEVERTHELESS, THAT PROMINENT BRAZILIANS  
OF ARAB ANCESTRY HAD CONTRIBUTED FINANCIALLY TO AL-FATAH.  
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## Message Attributes

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